

DETAILED ACTION

Prosecution History Summary

Claim 10 has been amended per the Examiner's Amendment set forth below.

Claims 1-10 are allowable as set forth below.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Auzville Jackson on 6/9/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Title

The title has been amended to read as follows:

-- Method for electronically publishing a single organization's requirements in an electronic publication--

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for electronically publishing a single organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to do business with the organization and that can create individual lines of communication between the organization and the vendors, wherein the method reduces an amount of paperwork and time required for the organization to conduct business transactions with the vendors over traditional methods, the present method comprising the steps of:

categorizing the single organization's requirements into categories that are easily recognizable to the vendors, wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, and further wherein each item is a product or service required by the organization;

electronically publishing the single organization's requirements in a publication that is dedicated solely to the organization, wherein each item within the categories includes a name, a description, a contact person and one or more relevant dates, wherein a name of the contact person is presented as a hyperlink to an e-mail account of the contact person;

creating electronic versions of all forms vendors are required to fill out and posting the forms in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors as well as submission of the edited forms to the organization electronically, wherein the forms include a request for information form, a quotes form, and a proposals form;

~~posting all forms and information necessary for the vendors to conduct business with the single organization, including a requests for information form, a quotes form~~

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~~and a proposals form, in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors and submission of an edited form to the organization electronically; and,~~

creating a registration section that allows the vendors to register with the single organization, wherein after registration the vendors can receive electronic notifications concerning any item specified by the vendors during registration;

wherein the organization's requirements, the forms vendors are required to fill out, ~~and information necessary to conduct business with the organization~~~~[[,]]~~ and the registration section are included in the electronic publication.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Upon review of the evidence at hand, it is hereby concluded that the evidence obtained and made of record, alone or in combination, neither anticipates, reasonably teaches, nor renders obvious the below noted features of applicant's invention as the noted features amount to more than a predictable use of elements in the prior art. The allowable feature includes "creating electronic versions of all forms vendors are required to fill out and posting the forms in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors as well as submission of the edited forms to the organization electronically, wherein the forms include a request for information form, a quotes form, and a proposals form".

The most felicitous prior art made of record is PTO form 892 reference U, herein referred to as "Craigslist". The Craigslist reference teaches an electronic publication that facilitates buyers, sellers, vendors, etc. to post and view items for sale, requests for purchase, or the like. Of specific importance in Craigslist is the categorization of the various types of postings so that a user's requirements are easily identifiable, with all the information necessary to respond to the solicitation contained in the solicitation itself, and an email form linked to the solicitation for contacting the posting user. Though Craigslist teaches the generic aspects of a public solicitation bulletin board, the reference fails to teach where the publication is dedicated solely to the organization. Most importantly, however, Craigslist fails to teach or render obvious the creation of electronic versions of all forms required to be filled out by vendors, posting those forms in an editable format so as to make them available to potential vendors, where the forms include the specific form types of a quotes form, a request for information form, and a proposal form. In

addition, though Mountain et al (US 20040128622) and Yamaoka et al. (US 20010029473) remedy other deficiencies of the Craigslist reference, they fail to teach or render obvious "creating electronic versions of all forms vendors are required to fill out and posting the forms in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors as well as submission of the edited forms to the organization electronically, wherein the forms include a request for information form, a quotes form, and a proposals form"....

It is hereby asserted by the Examiner that, in light of the above and in further deliberation over all of the evidence at hand, that the claims are allowable as the evidence at hand does not anticipate the claims and does not render obvious any further modification of the references to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WILLIAM J. ALLEN whose telephone number is (571)272-1443. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff A. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeffrey A. Smith/
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3625

/William J Allen/
Examiner, Art Unit 3625